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PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Published Every Afternoon, except Sunday, the Prince Rupert Daily News, Limited, Third Avenue.
H. F. PULLEN, Managing Editor.

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DAILY EDITION Saturday, April 26, 1924.

Prevent Fires In Forests.

The prevention of forest fires is something in which all should be concerned. It is important for the future welfare of the country that the timber should be protected. Not only is the standing timber valuable but future generations will depend upon the young trees that are today seedlings or partly mature. Fires destroy all of these.

With a view to bringing forcibly to the attention of the children who will be the citizens of tomorrow the desirability to taking an interest in the forests, essay competitions have been arranged. One by the Dominion and the other by the Province. The Dominion competition has been placed in the hands of this paper and essays must be written in accordance with instructions already published a number of times. The prizes, eight in all, consist of a fine radio set and cash prizes. The winner of the radio set will also enter automatically for the Dominion competition for which a more complete and valuable radio set is offered as first prize. The winning essay here will be forwarded by this paper to Ottawa to be judged against the essays of the Dominion. Entries in the Daily News competition must be in by Saturday next.

The provincial competition will follow close on the other and essays will be in before the end of May. Prizes for this will be valuable medals.

Why The Need For Action?

Many will ask why is there need for action of the kind being taken? This is the reason. There is in British Columbia merchantable timber estimated at 350,000,000,000 ft. board measure and it is estimated that in the past there has been destroyed by fire no less than 650,000,000,000 feet or nearly twice as much as that now in the forests. While in the past the value of this has not been very great, today it is worth an immense lot to the country and every year will see its value increase as the demand becomes more pronounced.

The provincial government gets a revenue of $3,482,000 from timber and there is paid in wages and salaries in connection with the logging and manufacture approximately $37,000,000. Thirty thousand men are employed in forest industries. Destroy the forests and this industry ceases.

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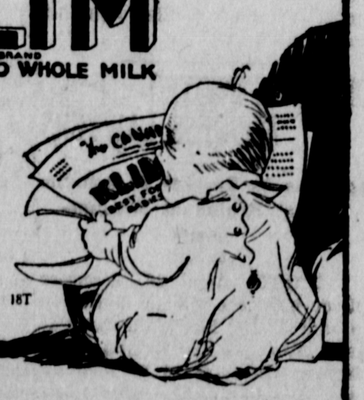

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Re-election of Poincare is not at all sure says Canadian Press Correspondent Political Review

PARIS, April 26.—(By Canadian Press).— The four-year term of the present Chamber of Deputies being up this year, Premier Poincare has decided to appeal to the country on May 11. In doing so he has not been without courage, because most of the members favored an extension of the life of this Parliament until the spring of 1925.

The last election was fought on November 16, 1919, when the issues centered exclusively around the foreign policy of France. As a result the groups elected had almost the same policy—that of making Germany pay for the cost of the war. In other words each group had nominally some distinction but in reality no difference. The group, Republican Democratic Entente, the party of Poincare, had more than twice the number of followers of any other group such as the Republican-Democratic Left led by Mandel and Tardieu or the Radical and Radical Socialist group headed by Herriot. The patriotism of the moment, however, welded all groups pretty much into one party and whenever there was any danger of a group breaking away all that was necessary was for the premier to reiterate the above policy and the group was in line again. If the premier did not reiterate that policy to the satisfaction of the Chamber or seemingly was being drawn away from it, then another was chosen. And when all is said and done that is why Poincare succeeded Briand.

Jockeying For Position

The dominant foreign policy which has served both as a "point d'appui" and an election cry during the past four years is now giving way to other issues and the groups are disintegrating from what other countries would understand as a national coalition. They are asserting their independence and dragging out the beliefs which they held prior to 1914. In fact each group is jockeying for position.

In outlining the new situation it is well to remember that Paris is not France and that urban France is not rural France. The town population of the country is about 19 millions but the rural inhabitants number over 21 millions with all the strength which that implies in an agricultural nation.

The problems of exchange, the occupation of the Ruhr and reparations do not reach the rural districts in the same way as they do the towns, and as do an increase in taxes and a higher cost of living. Accordingly those are the two great issues which will have more influence on the rural voter than any of the others as to whether he will support the present government or not. It must be mentioned is passing that direct taxation has never been well received in France. The average citizen does not worry so much about what he pays provided that the incidence falls on such commodities as matches and tobacco or even on a rental value which does not indicate the income of the tax payer. The deputies seekisg re-election have however just passed a law which increases taxation by 20 per cent. When it is remembered that the same gentlemen have been assuring the rural voters during the past four years that the Germans would be paying if now, it will require some explaining, entirely aside from the merits of the impost, to square themselves with their constituents.

Cost of Living

Of course the high cost of living has not affected the country as much as the town. The French farmer produces almost everything he has to eat. But manufactured products have increased in price and he finds that what he himself receives for his own produce has not augmented in the same ratio. Indeed it has recently taken a decided fall. Rumor on the other hand has it that the city manufacturer has sold his goods abroad leaving his balance there to accumulate nrinus, of course, what he has had to pay for more raw material. Some of the newspapers have retorted that the farmer has done the same when he has sold his produce abroad and that is why food products have up to now increased in price. In any case the country holds that the manufacturer has not been paying the taxes he ought to have paid and the fact remaiss that the rural districts are confronted with a 20 per cent addition to their contributions.

Exchange, the occupation of the Ruhr, and reparations, however, are live issues in the French cities. Generally speaking the French manufacturer is not concerned so much over a reasonable fall in the franc as the French shop-keeper. The latter finds it increasingly more difficult to do business with the exchange down one day and up another. In regard to the occupation of the Ruhr there is now more willingness on the part of everyone to discuss the merits of it than before, although every Frenchman still holds to the reparations policy. It is felt though that the last can best be solved by experts instead of politicians and to that extent some progress has been made. The Dawes report commands at least respect.

This attitude of sweet reasonableness it must be admitted does not favor Premier Poincare and his party so much as would appear at first sight. He has maintained himself in power largely through the rigidity of his foreign policy. Now that some of the urban communities are beginning to have doubts about the practical results of the occupation there is a weakening in the belief in the premier. There is less desire to invest in him the power of making law by decree, or as it is known in the British Empire, by order-in-council. France in fact has passed through that stage in which a Mussolini was a possibility and only an extraordinary fall in the franc could bring it back again. It is this point of view which the Radicals and Radical Socialists under Herriot —and Briand— have capitalized and which they hope will induce the electorate to place Poincare and his party in a minority in the coming election.

Depends on Franc

But it is necessary to get the right slant on the question which has brought about a parting in the ways of the main groups in the coalition block, as it is called.

It has been said that the various groups are getting back to their pre-war beliefs. When you have said that you have said everything. You not only go back to 1905 and the day of Combe but you start in 1873 with the incipient differences between the Church and the State.

Premier Poincare, although a member of the Left is being supported mainly by the Right. The Left, composed of Radicals and Radical Socialists is trying to resurrect its old time pre-war beliefs. If it is successful in doing so then the beliefs of the Left and the Right will no longer coincide and the premier will find himself much in the same position as was Lloyd George, that is, a member of one party but drawing most of his support from another.

To hazard a long distance guess, if the franc continues to appreciate and the cost of living decreases, Premier Poincare will pull through successfully the election in May. Otherwise there will be a Radical and Radical Socialist victory with Briand a likely premier.

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CARNIVAL DEFINITELY DECIDED UPON BY ELKS AND FAIR FOR MAY 24

At another meeting between the Fair Board and Elks last night it was definitely decided to go ahead with the Victoria Day carnival project, preliminary announcement of which was made yesterday. The initial object will be to raise funds for the repairing and painting of the Exhibition Hall. Organization for the carnival will be further advanced next week. The program now planned will take up the afternoon and evening of May 24 and besides the usual carnival features, there will be a concert and dance.

The effort of the Fair Board and Elks is to be confined to the Exhibition Hall and the grounds will not be used. It is understood that the various athletic associations will take charge there as has been their custom in the past.

Jarvis McLeod and W. J. Nelson are spending the week-end at Woodcock.

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